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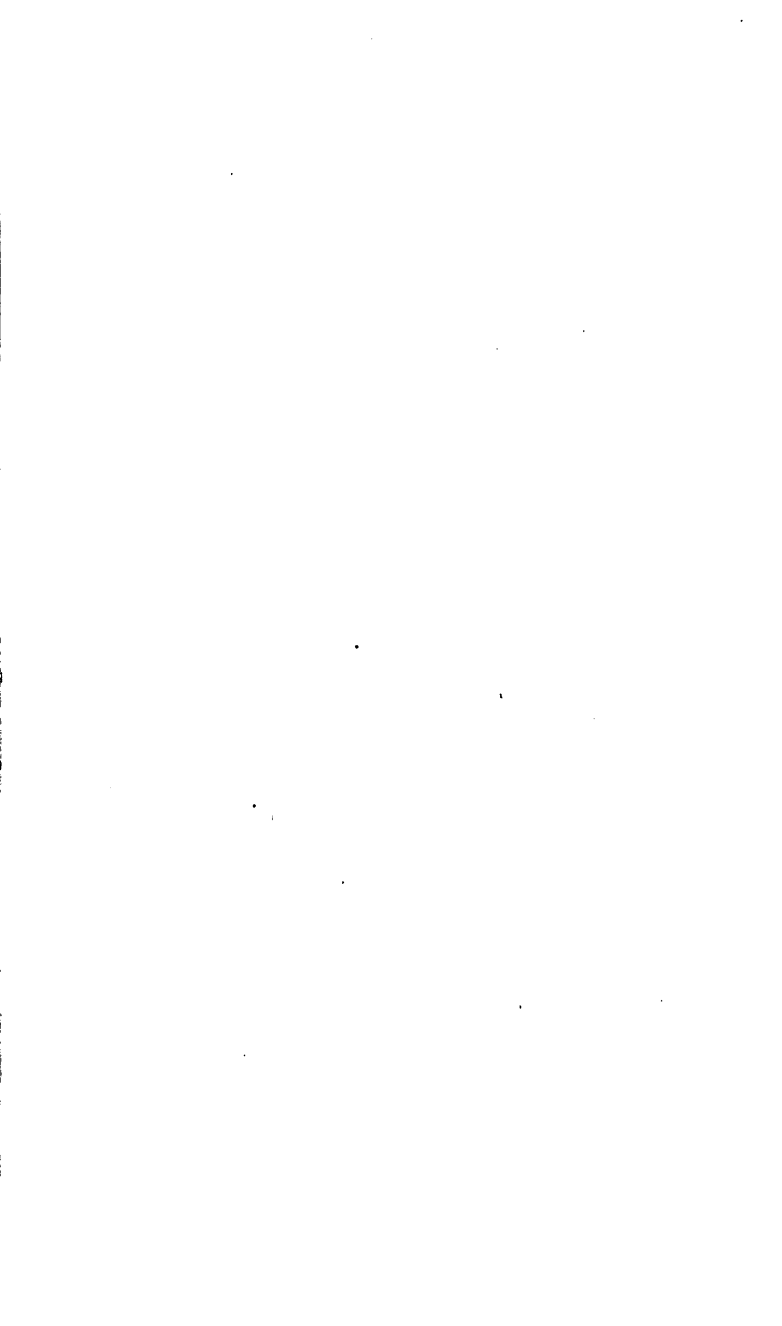
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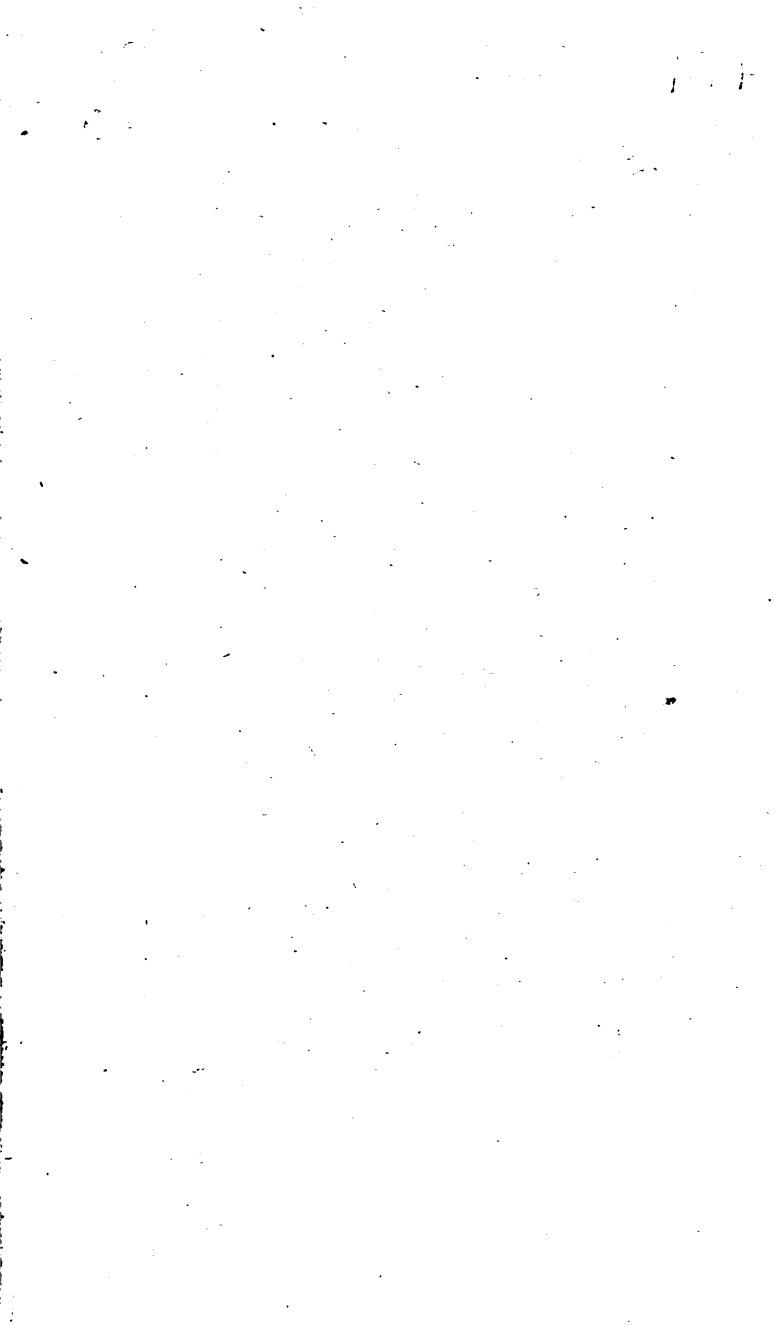
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A BRIEF ACCOUNT

OF THE CONCERN OF THE

YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS, (H. S. J.)

HELD IN PHILADELPHIA,

IN RELATION TO THE

GUARDED RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

OF THEIR YOUTH,

TOGETHER WITH

A STATEMENT OF SOME

OF THE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE

TO WHOM THE SUBJECT WAS REFERRED.

PHILADELPHIA:

PRINTED FOR THE COMMITTEE BY J. RICHARDS,

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1835.

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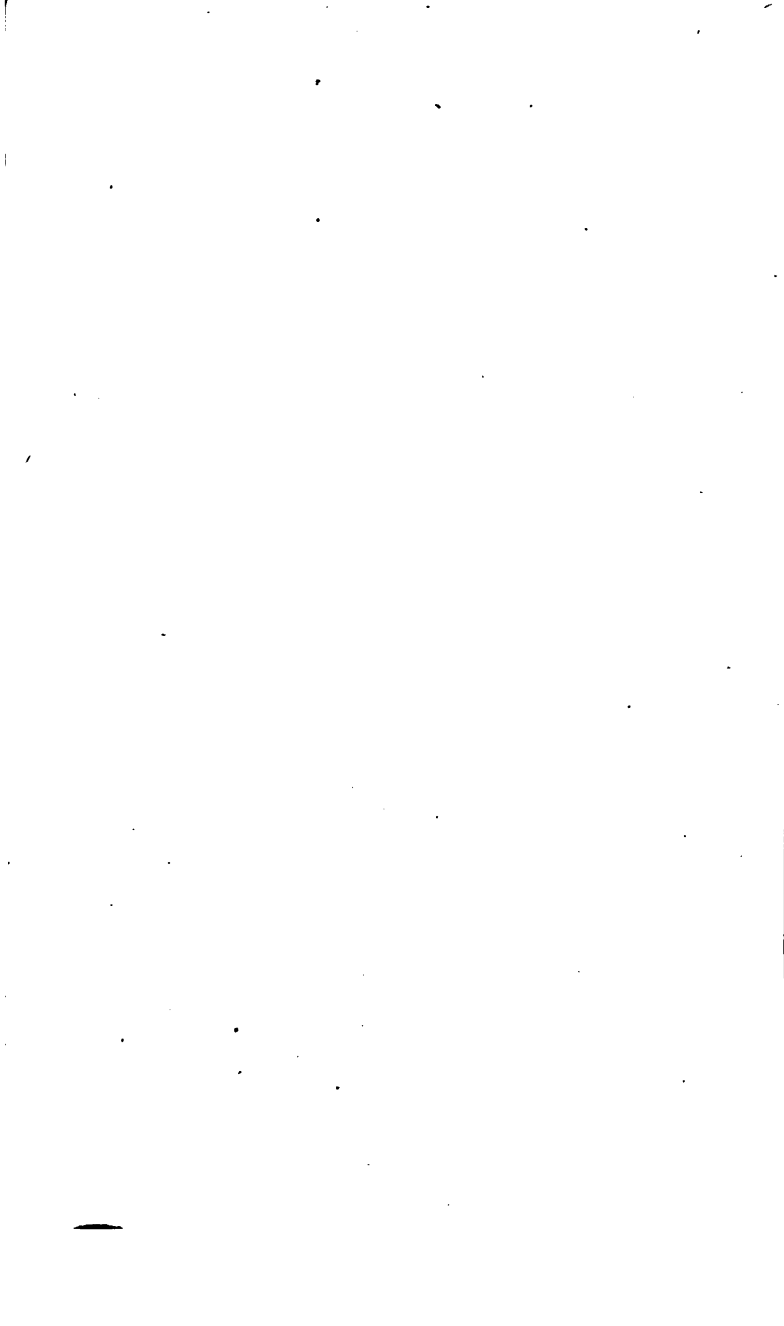
ADVERTISEMENT.

The committee on the subject of Education having collected a number of Reports and Documents, showing the state and progress of the concern for the religious instruction of the youth,—it was believed the publication of some of the views and remarks thus furnished, might tend to the encouragement of Friends in the further prosecution of this important object. By the information contained in some of these documents and reports, it will be perceived that as Friends have become united in their exertions for the improvement of schools, difficulties have been surmounted, and ways and means have been found for advancing the concern.

In making this use of the reports and statements furnished by individuals as well as meetings, the committee are actuated by a desire to keep alive the concern of the Yearly Meeting; and by exhibiting a view of what has been done, to stimulate Friends to persevere in their endeavours to promote the guarded education of their children, consistent with our religious principles and testimonies.

Although some of the plans and proposals held up to view in the following Account, may not have gone into full operation,—yet the committee are encouraged to hope that as Friends keep alive to the importance of the subject, they may be brought into practical use, to the benefit and improvement of the youth.

10th month, 1835.



A BRIEF ACCOUNT, &c.

*At the Yearly Meeting of Friends held in Philadelphia,
4th month 10th, 1833,*

The present condition of schools within the limits of this meeting, having been introduced to our view by reading the answers to the second annual query,—after deliberate consideration, it was believed that the subject of the right education of our children and youth, particularly in relation to schools, requires renewed attention and care.—Under the exercise produced on this occasion, a proposal was made, and with much unanimity adopted, to separate a committee for the purpose of taking into deliberate consideration the present state of schools, and the education of the children of Friends; in order, either by visiting the schools under the care of Friends, or otherwise to gain a more intimate knowledge of the state of our religious society on this deeply interesting subject,—so that a clear and explicit representation thereof may be made to this meeting next year. And also, if way should open, to make such proposals for improvement in school education as may comport with our religious principles, the welfare and preservation of our children and youth, and the advancement of this concern for their guarded, religious education. To which service a committee of forty-one Friends was appointed. Extract from the minutes.

JOHN COMLY, Clerk.

Women's Yearly Meeting, 4th month, 1833.

By a deputation from the men's meeting, we are informed, that on reading the second annual query, the state of schools and education throughout this Yearly Meeting, weightily engaged their attention, and resulted in the appointment of a committee to investigate, either by visits or otherwise, the schools under the care of our Monthly and Preparative Meetings.

This meeting, at a former sitting, having been exercised on this important subject, was prepared, on renewed consideration, to unite with our brethren therein, and a committee of thirty-six Friends was appointed to the service.

Extract from the minutes of Women's Yearly Meeting.

LUCRETIA MOTT, Clerk.

The committee appointed in conformity to the preceding minutes, having met, and deliberated on the most likely means of obtaining information relative to the situation of schools, and the general state of education within the limits of this Yearly Meeting, agreed to circulate the following interrogatories; with a hope that Friends in the several Monthly and Preparative Meetings would be willing to give the necessary assistance to the committee, by furnishing clear and explicit answers thereto, with such other information as may be useful in relation to the subject.

First. What number of children are there of each sex, under the care of Friends, within the limits of the Monthly or Preparative Meeting, between the ages of four and sixteen years?

Second. How many schools are there within the limits of each meeting, that have been established, and are kept up, agreeably to the recommendation of the Yearly Meeting,—and where are they located?

Third. What number of children generally attend each school,—designating how many of them are members,—and do they generally attend meetings on week-days?

Fourth. What other schools are there within the limits of said meeting, in which Friends' children are taught,—what is their character, and how many children of Friends attend them?

Fifth. What branches of education are taught in the schools,—what reading books are used, and are the schools furnished with maps and globes?

Sixth. Are there any children of Friends who are sent to West-town or other public boarding schools,—and if so, how many of each sex?

Seventh. What number of children are sent to private boarding schools?

Eighth. Are there any Friends' children, or children under their care, who are deprived of an opportunity of obtaining a useful education, for want of suitable schools within a reasonable distance, or from any other cause,—and how many of each sex?

Ninth. What is the usual price paid for tuition per quarter?

Tenth. What is the present amount of funds applicable to the support of schools,—and how much of it is in the possession of Friends?

Eleventh. What is the income from the funds,—and how much can be annually applied?

At a Meeting of the Committee, 9th mo. 13th, 1833.

An earnest desire was felt that Friends every where may be incited to increased care and concern in relation to the right education of their children. In order to promote this desirable object, it was concluded to collect the views of our Yearly Meeting, at former times, on the subject of the guarded, religious education of the youth. The following Essay being agreed on at a subsequent meeting of the committee, was directed to be circulated among the Quarterly and Monthly Meetings.

To the Quarterly and Monthly Meetings of Friends.

The committee appointed by the Yearly Meeting on the religious concern for the right education of our youth, having again met, replies to the interrogatories respecting schools, &c. from nearly all the Monthly Meetings, and some of the Preparatives, within the limits of our Yearly Meeting, were produced and read, (a summary of which is inserted in the report to the Yearly Meeting, page 11) furnishing such information as gives evidence of the willingness of Friends to co-operate with the committee in endeavouring to promote the objects of this deeply interesting concern.

In order more fully to open the nature of the exercise which engages our attention, the committee believe it right to revive the concern and advices of the Yearly Meeting on the subject, as exhibited by the Extracts in former years.

By a reference to the proceedings of our Yearly Meeting, it appears that the guarded education of the rising generation, has from time to time claimed the deep attention of Friends. As early as the year 1746, we find that meeting engaged in concern on this important subject, and recommending Friends in the several Monthly Meetings, "to encourage and assist each other in the settlement of schools for the instruction of their children, and to employ such masters and mistresses as were concerned not only to instruct their children in useful learning, but such who in the wisdom of God and a spirit of meekness, might be enabled to instruct them in their duty to God and one another."

In the year 1750, means were devised by the Yearly Meeting for the improvement of schools, under a concern that the youth of the society might be trained up in useful learning, under the tuition of *religious*, prudent persons, as *schoolmasters*. And in the next year, Monthly and Quarterly Meetings were earnestly pressed to active exertions in this important work.

In 1774, the Yearly Meeting was again deeply exercised on this subject; and "parents and others to whom the weighty trust of education was committed, were earnestly excited to a faithful discharge of their duty herein, both in respect to placing children under *exemplary* and *religious* schoolmasters and mistresses for useful and proper learning, as well as to inculcate in their tender minds the pure doctrines of the gospel, agreeably to the principles of our holy profession."

Also, in the year 1777, when the calamities of war and its deeply painful consequences were felt, Friends were renewedly awakened to a sense of their many deficiencies towards their offspring, and a lively concern was revived in the Yearly Meeting for the religious instruction of the youth in Friends' families, and also for their school education;—and this weighty subject was unanimously recommended to the deep attention and speedy care of Quarterly Meetings. A committee also was appointed to take this concern particularly under their care, to advise and assist therein as might be found necessary. This committee, after dili-

gent and faithful attention to the state of schools, made, in the following year, a report of their labours; and the Yearly Meeting entering into a lively exercise on this important subject, were united in concern for the restoration of primitive care in the education of youth,—for the establishment of schools,—and for the training up of children in useful learning, under the tuition of religious, prudent persons, suitably qualified for that service. And in order to promote this good work, it was feelingly recommended to Friends to give proper encouragement to such teachers as were capable, by example and precept, to promote their growth in piety and virtue as well as due instruction in the various branches of useful learning;—intimating, that by “employing persons for schoolmasters who have not submitted to the operation of Truth, their example has had a tendency to strengthen a disposition in our youth to avoid the cross, and unite with the spirit of the world;” and that to a want of liberality toward suitably qualified tutors might be justly attributed the low state of society with respect to school education, and many hurtful and corrupt things consequent therefrom.

Again, in 1779, the Yearly Meeting, “being fervently concerned for the pious education of the youth and their preservation from corrupt conversation, and the various temptations to which they are exposed, recommended this important matter to the deep and solid attention of parents and all others who have the weighty trust of the youth committed to them.”

For several years after this period, the right education of the youth annually claimed the weighty attention of the Yearly Meeting, and advices similar to the foregoing were issued. In consequence of which, and of the labour and concern of Friends at home, much improvement was made in schools, and the benefits thereof considerably diffused. But of latter years, it is apprehended there has been too much relaxation of that godly concern of parents and heads of families, in maintaining a guarded care over the youth at home, and also in their school education, which our discipline, and the nature of our religious profession require and enjoin. Hence, by a comparison of the state of society, as exhibited in the replies to the interrogatories, with the views and concern of the Yearly Meeting, as expressed in the preceding extracts, there appears to be much occasion

for the exercise which claimed the attention and care of our last Yearly Meeting.

We tenderly sympathize with parents who are piously concerned for the right education of their children, and also with the dear youth, in the trials and exposures to which they are subject; particularly in acquiring useful literary instruction. By the accounts produced, we perceive that more than four-fifths of the children under Friends' care, of an age to be sent to school, are not taught in schools under the care of Friends; and of those that are, many have not the opportunity of attending week-day meetings. We also find that a large number of our youth are placed, in great measure, from amongst Friends, in order to obtain necessary school learning; and that some are deprived of an opportunity of acquiring useful literary instruction. These are affecting circumstances, incompatible with the discipline and concern of the Yearly Meeting; and in our apprehension require renewed consideration and attention, as well as the state of schools generally.

In order to gain a more intimate knowledge of the difficulties and trials to which Friends are subject, in procuring a proper guarded education for their children—and in order to discover, as Truth may open the way, what remedy or assistance may be applied, or what improvement is necessary to be made,—the committee is induced to propose and request, that Friends in the several Monthly Meetings will furnish us with clear, explicit, and particular accounts of the difficulties and obstructions which prevent them from a compliance with the directions and advices of the Yearly Meeting on the subject of education; or from having well regulated schools, taught by exemplary members, where their children may have an opportunity of acquiring useful school learning, in accordance with our religious principles and testimonies, and a right concern for their real welfare and improvement.

Signed on behalf of the committee of the Yearly Meeting on the subject of education.

JOHN COMLY,
JAMES MOTT,
HANNAH WILLIAMS,
MARTHA CLEAVER.

Philadelphia, 9th mo. 26th, 1833.

At a Meeting of the Committee, 3d mo. 14th, 1834.

In reply to the Circular of 9th month last, inquiring into the causes which prevent a more general compliance with the advices of the Yearly Meeting on the subject of education,—reports were received from most of the Monthly Meetings—a summary of which is contained in the following Report of the Committee, adopted at an adjourned meeting.

To the Yearly Meeting.

The committee appointed for the purpose of taking into deliberate consideration the present state of schools, and the education of the children of Friends, report—

That on attention to the interesting and important subject committed to them, it was thought proper, in order to gain an intimate knowledge of the state of our religious society respecting education, to address a circular to the Monthly Meetings, requesting information on various points queried after. Replies thereto, have been received from nearly all the Monthly Meetings,—from which it appears, that within the compass of our Yearly Meeting, there are about five thousand children—nearly all of them members, of a suitable age to be sent to school—of which number not more than eight hundred attend such schools as are taught by members, and superintended by committees of the Monthly or Preparative Meetings. Thus, a large portion of the children of Friends are receiving an education in upwards of two hundred schools, over which Monthly or Preparative Meetings have no control. Some of them, however, are taught by those who are members or professors with us. At the time the returns were made by the Monthly Meetings, eighty-two children of Friends were at West-town boarding school, and about the same number were at other boarding schools. Most of the latter are under the care of persons who are members of our society.

The reports from many of the Monthly Meetings acknowledge much neglect in the attendance of meetings in the middle of the week, by such children of Friends as go to our own schools; and on the part of those who go to other schools, it is believed there is a still greater deficiency.

A few instances are acknowledged of children who have but little opportunity of obtaining school learning, from being so situated as not to have suitable schools within a reasonable distance. From the accounts received of the state of schools, it was evident that a great deficiency exists among us, in respect to a guarded education of the youth, as embraced in our religious principles and testimonies,—and that the advantage of such an education is not sufficiently estimated by a large portion of the society, according to its importance; and hence on giving attention to the objects of their appointment, the committee believed it would tend to forward their acquaintance with the state of society, in relation to the right education of children, if Quarterly and Monthly Meetings could be renewedly brought under the weight of this interesting concern.

In order, therefore, to draw the minds of Friends generally into a more lively feeling of its importance, another address to our members was issued in the Ninth month last. In this was held up to view the nature of the concern as it had claimed the attention and care of the Yearly Meeting in former years—extracts from the recommendations and advices of the body were revived, showing the religious concern of the Yearly Meeting, that the youth might be placed under the care of exemplary teachers, qualified to train them up in useful learning, in schools under the care of Monthly or Preparative Meetings. And in order to gain a more intimate knowledge of the difficulties and obstructions which prevent a compliance with those wholesome advices, Friends were requested to furnish the committee with explicit, and particular accounts of existing circumstances, that prevent them from having well regulated schools, taught by exemplary members, in accordance with our religious principles and testimonies, and a right concern for the welfare and improvement of the rising generation. From the reports received from most of the Monthly Meetings, the following summary is made.

In many places one general obstruction to having schools taught by members, under the care of Monthly or Preparative Meetings, is the scattered situation of the families of Friends, and the fewness of their numbers—which prevent their associating together in the support of schools, without the aid of their neighbours. Another prominent difficulty,

is the want of suitably qualified persons to be employed as teachers. Another cause of the low state of education, is the remissness of many parents and heads of families in a religious concern to bring up their children, and those under their care, in conformity with the simplicity of the Truth and the discipline of the cross of Christ.

The great difficulty of obtaining exemplary teachers in membership with Friends, complained of in most of the reports, is believed to arise principally from the circumstance, that persons of suitable literary qualifications are generally induced to pursue other kinds of business. Few children are educated or apprenticed for the purpose of becoming teachers, and few opportunities are furnished within the reach of the limited abilities of many parents for giving their children such an education as will qualify them for this useful and laudable calling. It is therefore obvious, that until Friends are more generally impressed with the importance of this concern, and make provision for supplying the deficiency, and a greater number of our members are encouraged to engage in the business of teaching school, this difficulty is not likely to be remedied.

From the causes above mentioned, and the mixture of Friends with others in the support of schools, the latter being frequently the great majority of a neighbourhood, the influence of Friends is diminished, and perhaps often too easily yielded to the views of others, in the employment of teachers who are not likely to aid concerned parents in that guarded religious care over the youth, which the principles of truth and our discipline require. Yet, it should be remembered, that the local, detached situation of Friends' families, is not a greater difficulty in the way of establishing well regulated schools, agreeably to the recommendations of the Yearly Meeting, than it was formerly, when these pressing advices were so repeatedly given by the body; and it is believed that if Friends could be stirred up to a lively zeal for the real welfare of the rising generation, means would be found, amidst all the existing difficulties and obstructions, for the advancement of this righteous concern, for their guarded religious education. Both at home and at school greater liberality would be manifested towards well qualified teachers, and towards providing suitable school-houses, and furnishing them with proper books, maps, and other apparatus adapted to the present improved state of educa-

tion in useful learning; and thus open the way for the improvement and stability of our primary schools. Teachers with families could be accommodated with dwellings, with whom, or with other Friends in the neighbourhood of the school, the children of those remotely situated could be boarded at a moderate rate.

If such a provision for meeting the wants of society should be found to be too expensive for a Preparative or Monthly Meeting, it might become the concern of the Quarterly Meeting. Thus all or most of the advantages contemplated by the Yearly Meeting would be realized, and a suitable and competent education be attained by our children, under the eye of their parents, or other concerned Friends.

There is a class of schools which has increased within a few years that may be termed family schools, and are generally taught by females. They furnish useful employment to a number of young women, and are calculated to develop female intellect; their great utility is obvious; and we believe much good would result from their being still further extended and encouraged. Some attention has been given to the subject of manual labour in literary institutions, and it is believed that this system possesses many advantages, and is in accordance with the simplicity of our religious profession. The tendency thereof, is to preserve the health of the students, by furnishing regular and steady exercise, and forming habits of industry and regularity, which are applied to their studies. The present most common methods of instruction in public schools are generally admitted to be defective, so that many parents object to sending their children to them, alleging that from the manner in which the hours of relaxation from study are most usually spent, or from some other cause, many manifest a strong disinclination, after leaving school, again to engage in manual labour employments. This objection, it is believed, will be in some measure obviated by the introduction of this system, while the expenses will be decreased; as the product of each scholar, by three or four hours labour per day, will assist in his support, and he may acquire a practical knowledge of agriculture, or some mechanic art, that may be of great advantage in after life. This method of instruction is believed to be worthy the consideration of Friends, and if suitable persons were properly encouraged to engage therein, it would prove a blessing to society.

It is with satisfaction the committee state their belief that the exercise of the Yearly Meeting last year, and the consequent care and attention that have been given to this interesting concern, have had an effect to encourage many of our members to increased exertion on the subject of schools, and the education of their children, yet it is evident that much remains to be done; and we therefore suggest to the Yearly Meeting the propriety and expediency of appointing a committee of men and women Friends, to give further attention to this deeply interesting concern, and report their care herein to the meeting next year.

Signed on behalf of the committee.

ISAAC TOWNSEND,
JAMES MOTT,
SUSAN KIMBER,
JANE PRICE.

The Yearly Meeting having continued the committee to give further attention to the interesting concern for which they were appointed, a meeting was held 4th mo. 18th, 1834—present fifty members.

The subject of manual labour schools being opened, it was on consideration concluded to appoint a committee to obtain correct and authentic information of this system, and if way should open, to visit institutions that are conducted on this plan, and make report to a future meeting. It was also agreed to separate a committee to visit, as way may open, the several Quarterly and Monthly Meetings, for the purpose of encouraging Friends in their respective neighbourhoods and meetings, to endeavour to improve their schools as far as may be in their power, by obtaining well qualified teachers, and furnishing the schools with suitable books, maps, and other apparatus adapted to the present improved methods of education.

At a Meeting of the Committee, held 9th mo. 12th, 1834.

The sub-committee appointed to visit the Quarterly Meetings, &c. informed that in nearly all the Quarters commit-

tees were appointed to give attention to the subject of schools, and the education of the youth within their respective limits.

At a Meeting of the Committee, 12th mo. 12th, 1834.

The committee appointed on the subject of manual labour in literary institutions, reported having given some attention to it, and that a few of their number have visited one or two institutions of this kind, and examined statements and publications respecting others. From the information thus obtained, the committee are encouraged to recommend this system to the consideration of all those who feel an interest in promoting and extending such methods of education, as are best calculated to accomplish the end. Yet, with these views, no way has opened to propose the adoption of any measure, as a committee of the Yearly Meeting. But at the same time, we suggest the propriety of encouraging Friends individually, or an association of Friends, to embrace any right opening to commence literary institutions on this principle.

3d mo. 1835. The committee having been furnished with copies of the Reports made to most of the Quarterly Meetings by their committees, were encouraged to believe that if the practical results arising from this concern, together with many of the views thus exhibited, were more widely diffused, it might tend to the encouragement of Friends, in giving further attention to this deeply interesting concern. Extracts from said Reports, are therefore subjoined as follows:

ABINGTON Quarterly Meeting's committee reported in the 11th month, 1834, "that they, or a part of them, having several times met and weightily considered the subject, have been much exercised in viewing the state of society thereon; believing, that Friends generally do not attach as much importance to the concern as it merits, and therefore, their children are sufferers thereby.

If Friends generally were more alive to the subject, we believe the difficulties, as regards school learning, mentioned in the extracts from the minutes of the Yearly Meeting, would, in good measure, be within their control, by harmoniously and energetically associating together for the support of schools, in neighbourhoods where a number sufficient may be settled near enough to each other for that purpose; and instead of scattering among other professors, where they can have their children schooled cheapest, they would determine unitedly to raise among themselves a sufficient salary to encourage a properly qualified teacher. For it is not to be supposed, that a Friend, possessing the honesty, probity, candour, and weight of character, that our profession indicates, and also the literary acquirements essential to a teacher, can be obtained at but a trifle more than a common day labourer, when so many stations in other business, are open for persons of this description.

We therefore believe, that until Friends generally, adopt a more harmonious and liberal course for the support of schools, and give the concern a more important place in their views, and come more into the spirit and feelings from which the concern and advices at various former times emanated in our Yearly Meeting, the difficulties of obtaining properly qualified teachers of our society, will remain, and but few will be encouraged to qualify themselves for engaging in this laudable calling.

And we furthermore believe, that even after children may have received what is termed their school education, a great advantage would result, were Friends more in the practice of providing religious and other properly selected books, and frequently, at convenient seasons, have some member of the family to read to the others, in a collective capacity, with occasional observations thereon, instead of spending many of their precious leisure hours in trivial, or at best, unprofitable subjects—their views would be enlarged, a foundation laid for correct sentiments, a taste for useful reading imbibed, and the parents thereby be improved as well as the children—and thus every family become a school of improvement itself.

And in order that Friends' families may more easily obtain access to books before referred to, we would suggest particular attention to the enlargement or establishment of public libraries in the respective Preparative Meetings, un-

der the care of suitable committees, for the use of all the members—and thus the history of the rise and progress of our society, as well as its principles and testimonies, be more generally diffused and understood.”

The committee of Bucks Quarter reported as their opinion, that the improvement of Friends' schools would be a great and lasting benefit to the children. Under this view, they believed it right to endeavour to ascertain the causes why schools are not more generally conducted in unison with the views of Friends—one of which they state to arise from there not being a sufficient number of Friends' children within the limits of many of their schools, to support them, without yielding more or less in the management and government of them. Another important difficulty, which appears to exist, is that the number of well qualified teachers in the society, and of those whose views may be in accordance with those of Friends, is not equal to the demand; and this we believe arises from the want of sufficient compensation, at most of our schools, to encourage well qualified persons to pursue the occupation, or induce parents to educate their children for that employment; and also from a practice that prevails, of children being kept too frequently at home, as well as an interruption occasioned by their coming into school during the regular hours of business; hence the child, the school, and the character of the teacher, sustains a loss.

In order to remedy these difficulties, and remove as much as possible all obstacles to the improvement and right government of Friends' schools, the committee suggest and earnestly recommend, that the different Monthly Meetings unite in turning their attention and energy towards the establishment and improvement of at least one school within the limits of each; that the number of scholars admitted under the care of one teacher, ought not to exceed thirty; that the price of tuition be so advanced as to enable Friends, with the aid of their funds, (the use of which we would recommend) reasonably to calculate upon obtaining well qualified and permanent teachers. That those Friends who reside within a reasonable distance of schools so established, open the way to accommodate the children of

members who may be more remotely situated, at a moderate rate; and by an application of funds, as much as circumstances will admit, towards paying their schooling, the expenses thereby will be more equalized; and thus as we become more and more sensible of the important advantages resulting to our children from a guarded education, consistent with the testimonies of Friends, we shall become united as a band of brethren, on this interesting and important subject, and the difficulties we have heretofore experienced herein will be removed.

It is our belief that if our schools were furnished with maps, globes, &c. and proper books placed in the hands of the pupils, who should receive the right kind of encouragement and counsel from their parents and friends, we can see no reason why our children would not then derive equal literary advantages with those which they would be likely to enjoy at boarding schools. We nevertheless would wish to encourage private schools, that are kept by our own members, in accordance with the views of Friends, and calculated to accommodate the neighbourhood in part, as well as to board the children of those who cannot conveniently send them to any of Friends' schools.

But we are weightily impressed with a belief, that how much soever our schools may be improved, and our children advanced in literary studies, yet much depends upon the care of parents. It is from them that the tender mind receives the first impression,—it is to them they are to look for precepts of purity and virtue, for examples of piety and humility,—and if we are enabled to walk before our children with conscious rectitude, following the precepts of the blessed Master, they may thereby be strengthened to become wise men and strong.

CONCORD Quarter, in the 11th mo. 1834, directed that each of their Monthly Meetings be furnished with a copy of the Report of their committee, which stated that a part of their number having several times met, were “united in recommending to the Monthly Meetings, a renewed exertion in improving the schools immediately under their care; and in order that this view should be better understood, they separated a part of their number to visit their

Monthly Meetings as way should open; and by a report from that committee, they find that schools conducted agreeably to the intent of the query, are much wanted among us.— Yet many Friends we believe are alive to this important subject, and convinced of the necessity of an improvement therein—and we feel encouraged, by observing that several Monthly Meetings have appointed committees on the subject under their care, to give such attention thereto as its importance may require. And the committee would still earnestly recommend the establishment of schools within the compass of each Monthly Meeting, under such regulations as shall comport with the testimonies of Friends on this important subject.”

The Report of the committee of CALN Quarter, as adopted in the 2d month, 1835, and sent to each of its Monthly Meetings, states—

“That in the course of our deliberations it has appeared to us, that from the relative situation of the members of our Quarterly Meeting, residing as they do, in almost every neighbourhood, remote one family from another, it cannot be expected that they will be able, except perhaps in one or two neighbourhoods, to establish and maintain such schools as will accord with the concern and recommendations of the Yearly Meeting—and yet, way has not opened to propose the establishment of any school by the Quarterly Meeting at this time.

But, to supply the great deficiency that is acknowledged to exist, the committee have had their attention turned to consider whether a boarding school might not be established within our limits, conducted by a company composed of the members of our religious society, in which children could obtain an education to fit them for business, at a moderate expense; and, at the same time, acquire habits of industry, and a knowledge of some one or more of the mechanic arts. The expense of establishing such an institution to be defrayed by voluntary contributions,—or advanced in shares by contributors, and held in the nature of stock—and the school to be conducted under the direction of an acting committee or board of managers, chosen annually by the stockholders from among themselves.

Upon deliberate attention, therefore, we agreed to propose, that the consideration of the establishment of such an institution be recommended to the Monthly and Preparative Meetings within our Quarter, and to the members of our religious society generally, to take place whenever the adequate means are subscribed, or such times as the contributors themselves shall approve. And we further propose, that such of our meetings, whether composed of men or women Friends, as shall incline to hold a share in the stock, be represented in the meetings of contributors by such delegates of either sex, as they may respectively appoint.

The committee do not propose in this report, to furnish a plan in the detail for such an institution; this must be left for the contributors themselves, to whom it more properly belongs; but we are generally united in believing from the trials that have been made upon this system elsewhere, that by a judicious division of time between literary pursuits, under competent teachers, and useful employment under farmers and skilful mechanics, after allowing full time for reasonable relaxation, the expense of boarding and schooling may be so lessened by the manual labour of the scholars, as greatly to relieve parents in moderate circumstances, and at the same time be beneficial to the children of Friends generally.

And notwithstanding an institution of this description, if properly conducted, might in great measure supply the wants of parents, and in time furnish an opportunity for children to acquire even a liberal education under the care of their fellow-members, yet Monthly and Preparative Meetings ought to be encouraged to use renewed exertion to support schools, particularly for the younger children, whenever their numbers are sufficient, and a teacher, male or female, can be maintained."

The committee of the WESTERN Quarter reported having several times met and conferred together on this deeply interesting subject, and that a near sympathy was felt for the dear youth within the limits of the Quarterly Meeting, but no plan or system of improvement adapted to the varied situations of our constituent Monthly Meetings, opened in the minds of the committee to propose for the consideration

of the Quarter at this time, but were united in suggesting the propriety of recommending it to the renewed, earnest attention of these meetings, desiring that this subject, of so much importance to the rising generation, may not be lost sight of.

No report has been received from the SOUTHERN Quarter, but the following information from a committee of one of the Monthly Meetings composing it, may be considered applicable to the state of the other meetings in the Quarter generally. Respecting the difficulties and obstructions which prevent their having well regulated schools, taught by exemplary members, where their children might have an opportunity of acquiring useful school learning, in accordance with the principles and testimonies of Friends, they say, "after viewing our situation as a Society, in a Monthly Meeting capacity, scattered as we are over a large extent of country, say from one extreme to the other, in length near or about forty-five miles, in which division there is not perhaps a neighbourhood in which there is a sufficient number of Friends' children to support a school of this description or character; therefore to us it appears difficult, if not impracticable at this time, under such circumstances, to sustain such schools as are queried after or recommended."

BURLINGTON Quarterly Meeting recommended the subject to their respective Monthly Meetings.

The committee of HADDONFIELD Quarterly Meeting reported in the 3rd month, 1835, "that some of their number had attended all the Monthly Meetings, in order to stimulate and encourage Friends to renew their exertions to advance this concern; and we had the satisfaction to observe, that at several of them, committees of men and women Friends were appointed to take that important subject under their particular care and attention.

As Friends in every meeting appear to be sensible of the importance of the guarded literary education of the rising generation, it is believed as they keep alive to the subject, that most of the difficulties that have appeared to prevent Friends from putting in practice the advices of the Yearly Meeting on this subject, will be overcome. The committee are further informed, two new school houses have been built by Friends, one at Chester, and one at Upper Evesham, which is an encouraging prospect."

SALEM Quarterly Meeting's committee reported in the 11th month, 1834, as follows:

"The committee appointed in the 5th month last, on the subject of the religious guarded education of our youth, have several times met, and deliberately considered the subject, and in which they are sensible of much deficiency amongst us, as regards the guarded education of our children, both at home and at school. Way has not opened to propose to the Quarterly Meeting any settled plan or step to be taken or produced by this meeting in relation to the establishment of schools; yet it is believed that if Friends, in their different neighbourhoods, would keep sufficiently alive to the importance of this concern, a more lively zeal will be manifested in the support of our primary schools, and that as Friends manifest a liberal disposition for the encouragement of these schools, teachers among the younger part of society, of both sexes, will feel their minds engaged to enter into this noble and dignified calling.

And in neighbourhoods where Friends are so circumstanced as not to be able to keep up a school the whole of the year under well qualified male teachers, it is believed that competent female teachers might be obtained, especially in the summer season, under whose religious, feeling care, our children might be profitably instructed in school learning, and their precious minds preserved in a good degree of innocency.

The committee have felt particularly anxious, that this part or view of the subject should claim the close attention of Friends every where, being persuaded it would prove a blessing to the children not only of Friends, but others.

And it is also believed, that if such schools were visited by committees of Friends, who felt a lively concern for their improvement, they would prove useful in supporting the dignity and order of the schools, be a strength to the teachers, and afford encouragement to children; and when female teachers are engaged, that these committees be composed of both sexes.

They would also recommend that Friends keep in view the advice of the Yearly Meeting, that where Friends are so circumstanced as to be able to keep up a school or schools, that they manifest greater liberality towards well qualified teachers in prices of tuition, also in furnishing such schools with proper books, maps, globes, and other apparatus necessary for an improved state of instruction. Thus way might be opened for children to be admitted into the schools, who might be boarded at a reasonable price, and an opportunity furnished them as well as those within their limits, for a liberal education, consistent with our profession, and thus give stability and permanency to such schools.

And it is further believed, that if we were all more concerned to live up to that golden rule of doing unto others as we would they should do unto us under like circumstances, and look around us within the limits of our several meetings, children might be found among our members who are so circumstanced, that it is difficult for them to come at such an education as would qualify them to be most useful to society; much good might be done by Friends of sufficient ability and liberality in taking such into their families, and giving them their board, or otherwise contributing to their education."

APPENDIX.

Containing Reports to Monthly Meetings, &c.

The committee of ABINGTON Monthly Meeting report—

“That having nearly all met, and duly considered the subject, it appeared to be our judgment, that some of the difficulties which prevent our having such schools as are queried after, arise from the inability to procure teachers possessing the necessary qualifications; also from the want, in too many instances, of Friends properly disciplining their children, and those under their care, at home;—not instilling into their minds the great benefit they would derive from submitting their wills to the government of their parents and teachers;—and from the heads of families not enforcing obedience to the rules of the school, and the direction of the teacher. The want of a proper care in these respects is felt to be a source of much difficulty in the right government of schools.

It is to be feared that those who have the youth under their care are in general too indifferent on the subject of a proper guarded education of them. This indifference is so prevalent, that it is difficult to find school committees who will give the requisite attention to their appointments; and in some instances, it is believed our schools sustain a loss from such who have the means, and are desirous of giving their children a liberal portion of school learning, sending them to boarding schools, and therefore taking a less interest in those of their respective neighbourhoods. After all, it must be admitted that without properly qualified teachers, it will be in vain to expect well regulated schools, so that this difficulty meets us in every stage of the inquiry. How to procure such, is found to be, in many instances, an insurmountable difficulty, since there are so very few who are willing to undertake that important trust from a sense

of duty, (as it is believed many were willing to do in the early stage of our religious society) and the employers being actuated by selfish views, employ such whose services can be procured at a price better suited to their *supposed* pecuniary interest.

At present, the number of boarding schools and public seminaries with large endowments, outbid the inhabitants of most school districts in the country, in the salaries to teachers. Thus, if a suitably qualified teacher happens to be found in any of our schools, almost as soon as his qualifications become known, he is induced by the offer of high wages and an easier line of duty, to enter those seminaries. And experience teaches us that those who are educated in them, in a general way, enter on the stage of action with views very different from teaching a common country school.

In conclusion, we believe that until the minds of both parents and teachers become more fully impressed with the great responsibility of their respective situations, and willing to submit to the pointings of duty herein, it will be in vain to expect much amendment. If that was effected, most of the difficulties in these respects would vanish."

Abington, 12th month, 1833.

The following is the report of the committee of BYBERRY Monthly Meeting, in the 2d month, 1834.

"We believe it is only in proportion as Friends submit to the baptizing power of Truth, that they become qualified to feel a living concern for the support of its testimonies, and to maintain a right exercise for the guarded education of their children.

In tracing effects to their causes, we apprehend that many of the defections from the principles contained in the recommendations of the Yearly Meeting respecting school education, have arisen from the want of deeper attention in parents and heads of families, to the restraining, regulating influence of the cross of Christ. Hence there is a lack of right concern for the exercise of "primitive care" in the guarded religious instruction of the youth in Friends' fami-

lies; and to this, it is believed, may be referred many of the "difficulties and obstructions" which have prevented a full "compliance with the directions and advices of the Yearly Meeting" in relation to schools. The manifest departure from primitive "plainness of speech, behaviour, and apparel," and other deviations from the simplicity and self-denial which our religious profession calls for, are the effects, in a very considerable degree, of this too general deficiency in the exercise of a proper discipline in families. And these departures, we believe, have an influence on committees who have the care and superintendence of schools, not only in actually rendering it more difficult for them to procure such teachers as the Yearly Meeting has judged "suitably qualified for that service," but also in diminishing the religious concern in the committees to employ teachers of the kind recommended.

One cause of the scarcity of exemplary masters and mistresses may be, the want of more liberality in offering salaries in some cases; but we believe a more general reason operates, in the want of deeper attention in parents and heads of families, to the circumscribing influence of Truth in the support of right order in their families, and in training them up and directing them in useful pursuits. Hence few children are educated for the occupation of common school teachers,—their views being directed to something esteemed higher, more lucrative, or more fashionable.—The business or calling of a schoolmaster is overlooked, and left to be taken up, often by transient persons, and such as are not suitably qualified to co-operate with concerned parents, in the guarded education of their children.

We are aware of the difficulties, especially of the poor, or those in limited circumstances, in procuring a sufficient portion of literary instruction for teachers, even when their domestic education has been guarded and exemplary, by reason of the high price of board and tuition at boarding schools taught by Friends, and also on account of the small number of schools under the care of Friends' meetings which furnish opportunities of becoming thus qualified.—We are also aware of the additional difficulties in procuring a proper education for their children, which those Friends have to encounter, who are remote from schools under the care of the Preparative Meeting. There are also orphans

and others whose situation and circumstances in life render it needful that they should be placed out, in order to obtain necessary school learning; and we hope the Yearly Meeting's committee will take these several subjects into view, when considering "what remedy or assistance may be applied" to the present acknowledged defects in our school education."

The following plan for a school was adopted at BYBERRY Monthly Meeting, held 10th mo. 28th, 1834.

It is believed to be an object worthy the attention of our members generally, to have an institution which would furnish a better opportunity to such of our youth as incline to become teachers of schools, for obtaining the necessary literary and scientific instruction for that useful calling, than our present schools afford, and at which the children of Friends could finish their education, and at the same time be under the immediate care of their parents or guardians —thus obviating the necessity of placing them at boarding schools at a distance, or at schools not under the care of Friends.

With these purposes specially in view, the following plan for the establishment and future government of a school in this vicinity, is proposed:

That there be seven Friends appointed by the Monthly Meeting as trustees of the institution, in order to carry the design into effect, and that there be a like, or sufficient number appointed by the meeting once in four years, or oftener if necessary.

That the said trustees shall look out for a suitable situation for the school, locating it near the meeting house, if circumstances will admit of it. They shall provide funds to defray the necessary expense of the establishment, by obtaining subscriptions and donations among themselves and other Friends, and when sufficient means are provided to warrant the undertaking, they shall proceed to erect or procure, the requisite buildings, furniture and apparatus for the accommodation of the school.

They shall also have the care of procuring suitable teachers, having due regard to the recommendations of the discipline in selecting them—of fixing the terms for the admission of pupils—regulating the number to be admitted, duly considering their age and previous progress in learning—and have the general direction and superintendence of the school, subject however to the following restrictions, viz:—That in the admitting of scholars, the children of Friends who are members of this meeting, and children under their care, to have the preference when there are more applicants than can be admitted.

That if real estate is purchased by said trustees, the title to be made to them, their heirs and assigns, in trust for the use of the institution, and the meeting not to be responsible for any debts contracted by them.

No part of the income of the present Byberry school fund to be claimed or expended by the trustees, or those who send to this school, except for the tuition of poor Friends' children, with the consent of the trustees of said fund.

The trustees to keep regular minutes of their proceedings, rules and regulations, in conducting and managing the institution, and make report annually to the meeting, of the progress and state thereof.

At CHESTER Monthly Meeting, held at Providence, 10th month, 1834, a committee was appointed on the subject of establishing well regulated schools, who reported in the 1st month, 1835, as their opinion, that much advantage would result from a more prompt and lively attention of committees superintending our schools—both as respects improvement of the children, and the ability and conduct of teachers; liberally encouraging such as may be well qualified for that service, so important to the welfare and usefulness of the present and rising generation. And we further propose to the Monthly Meeting, the propriety of a private boarding school, near Providence meeting house, to be under the direction of a committee of the Monthly Meeting, and patronized by it; not excluding, for the present, day scholars

of any class within reach of said school; and the said school to be furnished with maps and globes at the expense of the Monthly Meeting.

The above report was united with by the meeting, and a committee of nine Friends appointed to endeavour to carry the same into effect,—and to give such care and attention to the school as they may think necessary.

2d mo. 1835.—They have agreed with a Friend to take charge of said school, on such terms as they think reasonable—and that it is proposed to commence about the 1st of 4th month next.

The school having commenced, the committee all attended, and arranged themselves so as for a part of their number to visit the school once a month; and so far it has succeeded to general satisfaction, having several boarders from within the compass of the Monthly Meeting, as also some from Philadelphia, and near fifty day scholars, who regularly attend the meeting on week-days at Providence, which has not been the case for these several years past. Boarding and tuition \$80 per year; day scholars from \$2.50 to \$5 per quarter. There is also one other school belonging to this Monthly Meeting which has received the care of the school committee.

At WILMINGTON Monthly Meeting, held 5th month 29th, 1835, the committee on education, made the following exhibit of the progress of the concern, and of the condition of the school under the direction of this meeting, which was read and approved, viz.

“The committee, to whom was referred the concern of the Yearly Meeting, in relation to the religious, guarded education of the youth, report, That shortly after their appointment they had several meetings on the subject, and after a careful attention to the circumstances and situation of Friends of this Monthly Meeting, the committee were of the judgment that one or more schools, to be conducted under the care of the Monthly Meeting, and having a special view to the support of our christian testimonies, was much needed amongst us. It appeared to us, that if due exertion

were made, there was a sufficient number of Friends interested in the education of children, and living within the compass of this meeting, to support a good school, with a competent remuneration to a well qualified teacher; the committee, therefore, concluded to invite such Friends to meet together, and consider the subject. At this meeting, much interest was manifested by Friends, and a sufficient number of subscriptions, at \$8 per quarter, obtained, to warrant a further prosecution of the concern. Since that time, the standing committee on schools, has caused the school house on West street, belonging to this meeting, to be put in good order, and a well qualified teacher has been engaged, who has opened a school, which is now in successful operation. Maps and globes, and other apparatus, necessary to complete the design of the committee, have not yet been obtained, but it is expected they will be procured within a short time.

At BIRMINGHAM Monthly Meeting, held 10th mo. 1834, the committee on the subject of schools, reported that having several times met, upon conferring together, they were united in proposing to the Monthly Meeting for its consideration, the propriety of establishing one school as near the meeting house at Westchester as practicable, and to be that kind of school, wherein all the usual branches of a liberal education, such as would be deemed sufficient for Friends' children generally, might be obtained on the most moderate terms, by boarding their children at home, or with friends living contiguous, if more convenient. A committee was then appointed to make an estimate of the expense of carrying it into effect, and likewise to try to ascertain what funds can be raised for that purpose.

2nd month, 1835, the committee appointed, reported that the sum of one thousand dollars was subscribed for building a school house. They were then released, and another committee appointed to have a suitable building erected for the purpose, on the ground belonging to Westchester Preparative Meeting.

A communication from a committee of KENNET Monthly Meeting, dated 6th month 6th, 1835, states that in pursuance of the plan and design referred to, in the statement made at the request of the education committee of the Yearly Meeting, a little more than a year ago, a new school has been established in one of the branches of the Monthly Meeting, to wit, Marlborough. In this Preparative Meeting, a small fund had been created by voluntary subscription, agreeably to the recommendations of the Yearly Meeting, many years ago. It had been kept at interest until it amounted to above \$1200,—a part of the interest had at different times been used to augment the salaries of teachers of the school then in operation; on the meeting house ground, occasionally in procuring spelling books, &c. of a uniform kind. A few years since, it was thought advisable to invest a part of the principal in land—and application was made to the Monthly Meeting for permission to do so, in conformity with the principles upon which the fund was established. A lot of about two and a half acres of land was accordingly purchased, adjoining the meeting house ground, and held in trust as the property of Marlborough school fund. Shortly after this, and in accordance with the original design, a dwelling house was erected on the lot, for the purpose of accommodating a teacher, at an expense of about \$700, for which object that amount of the principal was appropriated in the manner before stated.—The principal of the fund not being yet exhausted, it was concluded to make use (in the same manner) of what remained, in purchasing an additional lot of land; and this being accomplished, a small balance (less than one hundred dollars,) was afterwards reported to the Preparative Meeting as being in the hands of the treasurer unappropriated, being for rents, interest, &c. A committee was then named to take the subject into consideration, and report what application should, in their judgments, be made of this balance. Friends were then led to consider how much had been already done, and what yet remained for them *to do*, in furtherance of the contemplated object. The result of their deliberations was, to propose the erection of a new school house on the fund property, sufficiently large for two rooms, one for children in the earlier stages of learning, the other for those more advanced; and in this it was considered of

primary importance that the situation of the building should be high and airy, the house light, and easily ventilated—to be built in a simple and plain manner,—and if of one story only, that that one be higher than those of ordinary school houses in the neighbourhood, and to carry this into execution, it was proposed to open a new subscription.

The committee were perfectly united in these propositions, and the meeting approved of the same as with one voice; and many that had not contributed to the fund at its first formation, seemed gladly to avail themselves of the opportunity now; and the house was built last autumn, for something less than four hundred dollars. Since when, a school has been kept therein most of the time, and both apartments called into requisition. At present, about fifty scholars attend. A pair of globes have lately been procured by means of another subscription, in which the scholars themselves participated;—the little boys, with a laudable zeal, contributing their mite. Such has been the beginning, and such the progress of this establishment. Whether it emanated from any action of the Yearly Meeting long ago, or from the recent movements in that body,—or whether it was the spontaneous production of the immediate neighbourhood, it may not be necessary here to consider. There can be but little doubt, however, that the same disposition thus far manifested, will soon accomplish more, and the school be furnished with maps, and the necessary apparatus in the pursuits of science;—that a well selected library may soon supply not only rational entertainment, but the means for acquiring substantial knowledge.

It may not be amiss, in conclusion, to remark, that the object aimed at in the establishment of this school, was to provide the means of furnishing the youth with a full opportunity of obtaining a sufficient scholastic education, under the immediate care and protection of their parents and friends; avoiding the hazard of their health by close confinement, as in large boarding schools, without active employment. Here their mornings and evenings, and other intervals may be spent at home, engaged in agreeable, healthful, and profitable business;—their labour not only promoting their own health and comfort, and confirming them in habits of industry, but going far towards defraying the expense of their boarding and tuition; thereby making their

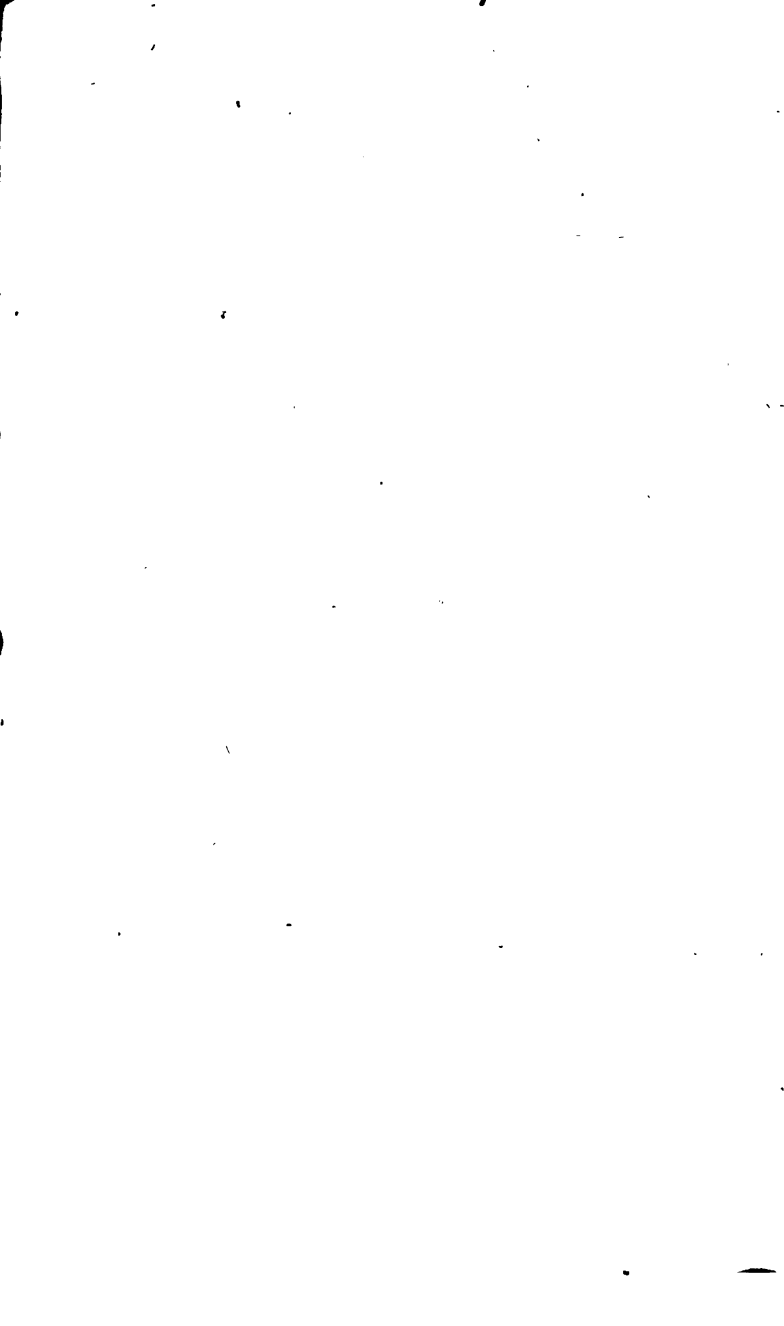
education a home concern,—their books and their business,—their constant intercourse with their own families and friends in their every day concerns,—all contributing, under the guardian eye of their parents and teachers, to form the character for usefulness in after life.*

LONDON GROVE Monthly Meeting, 7th of 1st month, 1835.

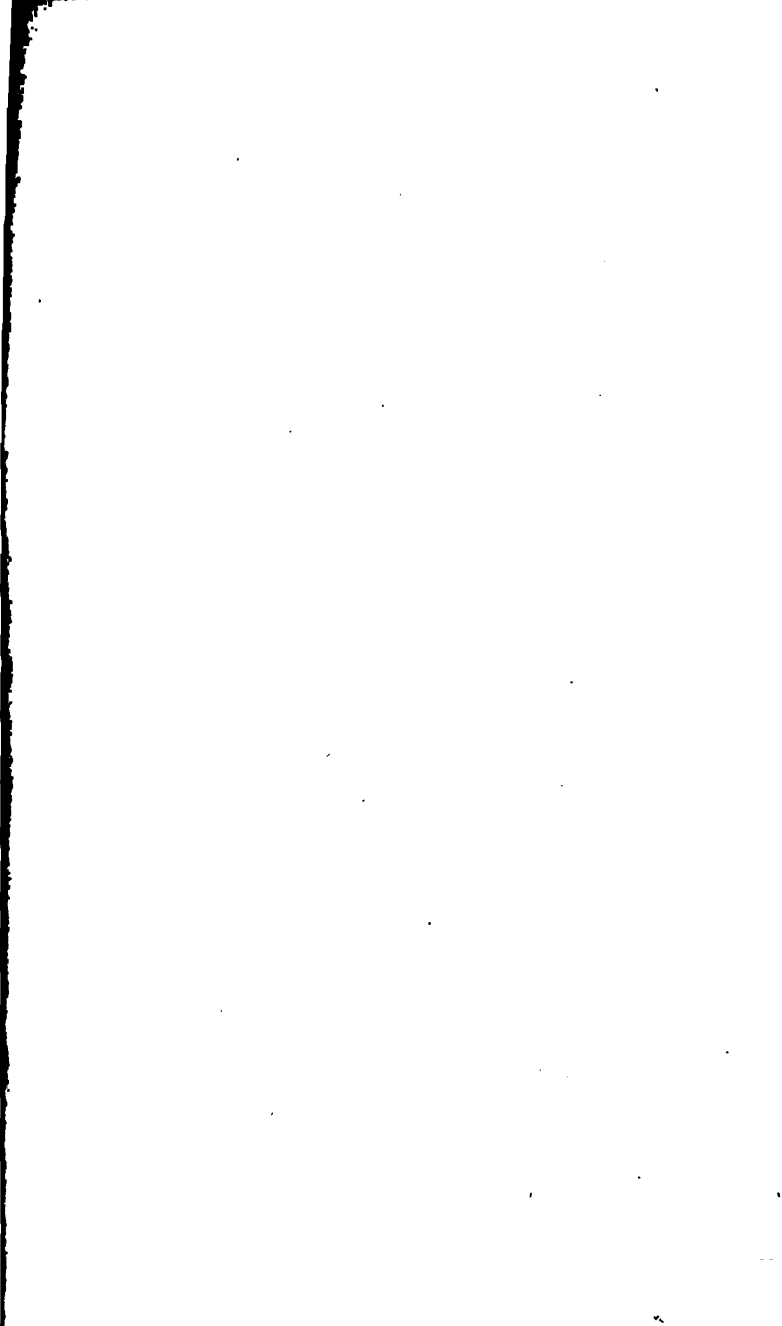
The state of schools, and the right education of our youth being again revived, on solid consideration, it was concluded to recommend the subject to the close attention of the standing committee on schools, who are encouraged to embrace every right opening for their advancement, and to suggest to this meeting, any system or plan of improvement which may turn up with clearness to their minds.

* The committee are informed that the scholars attend mid-week meetings with their teachers.

✂ In connexion with the subject of the foregoing pages, it may further the concern, to give information that an association of women Friends in this city, are engaged in compiling and selecting books for the use of schools under the care of Friends, and also some, calculated to interest children of different ages.









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